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To: jb56@cus.cam.ac.uk, mlr1000@cus.cam.ac.uk  
From: Tian Yu Cao <tycao@bu.edu>  
Subject: conference  
X-UIDL: f43436560df505af66baf179a1fb7c19

Dear Michael and Jeremy,

I forward Weinberg's query to you. As I said last time, the academic side of our preparation of the conference, the academic programme is quite solid already (except for Connes and Haag, all other speakers are committed to the conference already except for small negotiations about the dates and timing, which will be solved sooner or later with ease), the only problem is the financial side.

I have received an advanced copy of my book on Monday (12/23/96). I am expecting to receive extra copies that I ordered by the end of 1996. After the New Year's day, I will talk to John Silber (the Chancellor of BU), Jon Westlin (the President of BU) and Dannis Berky (the Provost of BU) and give them a copy of my book, in which they had shown strong interest, also show them a copy of the correspondence between Weinberg and Atiyah about our conference, a tentative programme of the conference, the academic constituents, including the steering committee, and supporters of the conference, and explain the financial situation to them: I am applying to NSF and Mellon Foundation and waiting for the result, Trinity's contribution and you other efforts in soliciting support (please let me know if there are any in planing), and I will ask them to make some promise if I fail to get money from NSF and Mellon Foundation. I am optimistic with their response.

At the same time, if you have no objection, I plan to send a letter to Professor Henri Moffatt of DAMPT and Trinity, explaining the situation about the conference to him, and asking him for help. He was very supportive to my work when I was in Trinity from 1985 until I left in 1988 when he was trying to get me something from DAMPT; and when I met him in the summers of 1994 and 1996, he showed great concern to my work and promised whatever support he was able to give if I need (the context was that I talked to him about the planning conference in the summer of 1996). I guess the reason why Trinity's support is not so enthusiastic is some negative response from Hugh Osborn, who is the major particle physicist in Trinity, and was a very narrow-minded physicist and extremely negative toward HPS and toward me in particular when I was in Trinity. Since Moffatt is very close to the Master, I hope he can neutralize the negative impact of Osborn and encourage Trinity to give us more generous supports. I don't think the deadline for book lodging is an unsolvable problem.

I also plan to send a letter to Peter Goddard, with whom I was working on strings in 1987-1988 in DAMPT, arranged by Moffatt and J. C. Taylor. Goddard was very friendly to me when I was working with him and wrote many supporting letters on my behalf afterwards. Considering his professional interest and his positions in St John's and in the Newton Institute, I expect that he will be willing and able to help us.

If you have no objection to my plan, I will send two letters with necessary supporting materials to them after coming back from Atlanta (APA annual meeting, interviewing candidates for the PS position at BU, for which I am on the searching committee) on 12/30/96.

I have not talked to other members of the steering committee because these days are not good time to bother them. I suggest that we give up and postpone the conference to 1998 only when the situation is clearly hopeless. In the meantime why don't you approach Connes and Haag with a tentative quest for their commitment to a talk at our conference. With their commitment we will have a nice conference even if we have to re-schedule if there is conflicts of schedule among contributors, or even to postpone if worst comes to worst. But if you don't approach them, then there is a risk that even if we have money they will find it difficult to schedule a major academic talk (considering the rank of other contributors) with a short notice. I expect I will have more about funding to report to you around 1/20/97.

Best holiday season wishes to you,

Tian Yu

>From: WEINBERG@physics.utexas.edu  
>X-PH: VBU-4.1.CUSSP@bu.edu  
>Date: Wed, 25 Dec 1996 14:11:26 -0500 (CDT)  
>Subject: conference  
>To: tycao@bu.edu  
>Cc: WEINBERG@UTAPHY.PH.UTEXAS.EDU  
>  
>Dear Professor Cao,  
> It would help me in planning my summer to know what dates  
>you are considering for the Quantum Field Theory conference  
>in England, even if these dates are still tentative.  
> Happy New Year! Best, Steve Weinberg  
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